UCSF newsbreak

NEWS FOR THE UCSF CAMPUS COMMUNITY VOL. 13, NO. 24 NOVEMBER 25, 1998

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Of politics, protests and primates

UCSF research conducted with squirrel monkeys to determine how the brain analyzes sounds after a partial hearing loss has drawn considerable attention both on and off campus in recent weeks.

Like all UCSF research involving animals, this particular study – which may lead to improved hearing in the millions of Americans who suffer from hearing loss – was reviewed both for its scientific importance and to ensure that the animals are treated humanely and experience the least possible pain and discomfort. Researchers also adhere to strict federal government guidelines for animal research.

On Monday, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 10 to 1 in favor of a resolution calling for the humane treatment of primates involved in the UCSF study.

As approved at a Nov. 17 public hearing on animal research held by the Board of Supervisors' Economic Development, Transportation and Technology Committee, the resolution urges UCSF to "use alternative research methods instead of animal testing when available" and to "only use animals for testing when scientific merit has been demonstrated." UCSF already follows these guidelines, campus members testified.

Supervisors Michael Yaki and Leslie Katz voted 2 to 1, with Supervisor Mark Leno dissenting, to approve that resolution. The resolution, which the full board approved Monday, was amended at Katz's request from an earlier version drafted by committee chair Yaki that called for UCSF to terminate the squirrel monkey experiment.

Supervisors decided to hold a public hearing on animal research because they had received several calls and letters from animal rights activists and celebrities objecting to the use of laboratory animals in the hearing loss study at UCSF.

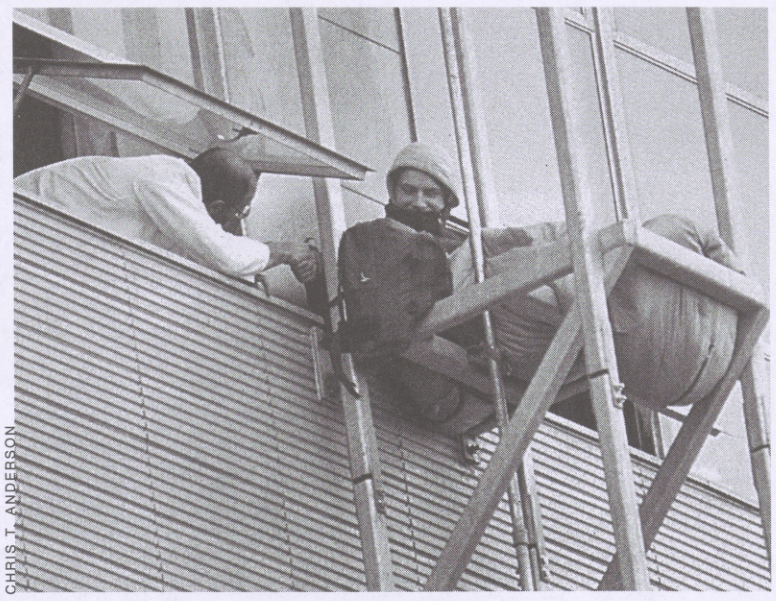
About 20 UCSF faculty, post-docs, staff and patients spoke of the importance of studies with animals at the committee meeting. UCSF also provided to the supervisors many letters of support of animal research from business and health associations, alumni and donors.

Robert Schindler, professor and chair of the UCSF department of otolaryngology, supported the experiment which he said is of "fundamental importance for persons with hearing loss."

"We can only learn about these disorders by studying primates. There are no other animal or laboratory models that will give us the answers we need. Many studies in animals have helped us in treating other hearing disorders. For example, animal studies led to the development of cochlear implants," he said.

Speaking for herself and her colleagues who work in cancer research and treatment at UCSF, Maria Pallavicini, professor of laboratory medicine, UCSF Cancer Center, told the supervisors: "We know we cannot find treatments and cures for cancer without testing animals. Cancer is a difficult problem to solve and there are tens of thousands of scientists trying to unlock cancer's secrets. I am concerned that if you stop the current research on hearing loss, you may some day want to stop my research and that of other cancer researchers."

(SEE PROTEST ON PAGE 3)



CHRIS T. ANDERSON

A UCSF physician checks in with an animal rights activist, who sat on scaffolding outside the Medical Sciences Building on the Parnassus campus for six days to protest a UCSF experiment on hearing loss conducted with squirrel monkeys.

Teaching hospitals outperform others in complex surgery

Academic medical centers in California appear to be responding to the pressures of managed care with greater effectiveness than other hospitals, UCSF researchers say.

Sean Mulvihill, UCSF professor of surgery and UCSF chief of the division of general surgery at UCSF Stanford Health Care and his UCSF colleagues found mortality rates from complex abdominal procedures were four-fold lower in teaching and research hospitals than other hospitals.

Researchers also found shorter lengths of stay and reduced costs for these patients. These results counter the perception that academic medical centers are more costly and inefficient.

"We observed improvements in both length of stay and mortality after complex abdominal operations in all California hospitals, but the improvements were much more dramatic in academic medical centers," says Mulvihill.

UCSF researchers also found that patients treated in academic medical centers had fewer complications, as measured by a smaller percentage of patients with hospital stays longer than 20 days.

In a comparison of hospital services used by surgery patients such as chest X-rays and blood tests, findings showed academic medical centers used fewer costly tests and procedures. During the study period, use of these resources declined in academic medical centers and increased slightly in community hospitals.

"The data suggests that the academic medical center provides a service within the health care marketplace that is not matched by the average community hospital in terms of the outcomes of care following highly complex abdominal operations," says Mulvihill.

"Not only does the academic medical center accomplish the teaching mission that society needs but this study shows it also delivers care in an efficient manner," he adds.

The research team studied patient outcomes and treatment costs associated with complex abdominal surgical procedures from 1990-1994, a time when managed care was increasing throughout California.

Roundworms yield clue to aging

BY JENNIFER O'BRIEN

UCSF researchers have made a significant finding in roundworms that may offer insight into the way in which genes regulate aging and life span in humans.

In a study funded by a grant from the National Institute of Aging and published in the Oct. 16 issue of "Cell," researchers report that a gene already known to play an important role in controlling aging in roundworms does so not by acting within individual cells to control each cell's fate, but by acting within certain cells to coordinate the aging process of the whole organism.

"Our study indicates there is a mechanism that causes all of the cells in the animal to reach a consensus," says Cynthia Kenyon, the Herbert Boyer Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at UCSF. "And that mechanism appears to be sparked into action by particular genes acting within certain types of cells."

The researchers conducted their study on a gene known as *daf-2,* which Kenyon's lab had previously determined plays a significant role in controlling the aging process and life span of the roundworm known as nematode *C. elegans.*

Fertile roundworms with partially mutated, or "knocked out," *daf-2* genes grow to be active, fertile adults that live more than twice as long as normal. And roundworms still in a larval stage of development, with more severely mutated genes, enter a state of extended prepubescence known as dauer diapause, in which larvae do not feed, are able to withstand harsh environmental conditions and live a long time.

What the researchers have now discovered is that if the level of *daf-2* activity is lowered in just a small group of cells, the life span of the whole animal is extended." "Somehow," says Kenyon, "this small group of cells allows all the cells in the animal to live longer—even those that contain the normal gene."

The explanation, she says, appears to be that *daf-2* acts in multiple groups of signaling cells to control the production or activity of a second signal that coordinates the growth and aging of individual cells, thereby regulating the development and life span of an individual.

As many biological processes are known to be conserved between *C. elegans* and vertebrates, the finding offers possible insight into the way that human aging is controlled. The possibility is particularly tantalizing because of several apparent similarities in the response of both *C. elegans* and rats and mice-a step closer to humans — to low-calorie diets.

As with *C. elegans,* when rats and mice are fed low-calorie diets they live longer than normal, and the first response they have on the molecular level is a drop in insulin levels. The equivalent of the *daf-2* gene in humans produces the cell receptor for insulin and insulin-like growth factor (IGF), which plays a role in regulating food metabolism.

And, just as in *C. elegans,* the human insulin receptor acts in signaling cells, amongst other places, prompting second signals that then affect the behavior of other cells.

"It may be that the signaling cascade prompted by *daf-2* in certain cells occurs in a similar way in the insulin/IGF family of receptors in mammals in response to caloric restriction," says Kenyon.

If this is the case, she says, it may be that the hormone signaling pathway in *C. elegans* hints at a similar process regulating aging in humans. "It may be that one portion of this pathway is involved in the control of aging, so the challenge is to figure out which portion that is."

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ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS:
Carol Fox

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:
Jeff Miller

EDITOR:
Lisa Cisneros

CONTRIBUTORS:
Paula Murphy, Nancy Heller and the UCSF News Services staff

COPY EDITOR:
Daniel Rowe

SENIOR DESIGNER:
Martha Fitzgerald

DESIGN & PRODUCTION:
Victoria Maier

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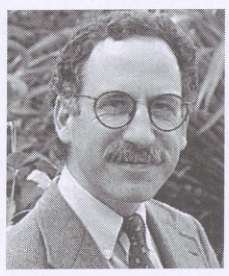
Family and Community Medicine gets new chief



Grumbach

Kevin Grumbach, a UCSF associate professor of family medicine and health policy, has been named chief of the department of Family and Community Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center (SFGHMC).

He has been active in clinical and research programs at SFGHMC since joining the UCSF faculty in 1990.

In his new post, Grumbach, 42, will oversee all clinical, research, and administrative programs within the department, as well as the UCSF family practice residency program, which is based at SFGHMC.

The SFGHMC department includes the Family Health Center, which averages more than 41,000 outpatient visits a year, an inpatient service, and a skilled nursing facility.

In addition to his clinical work in family medicine, Grumbach has taken a leadership role in research programs related to primary care, the health care workforce, and health policy. He has authored many papers and lectured widely on these subjects. In current research, he is investigating how financial incentives and other managed care policies are affecting physician practice.

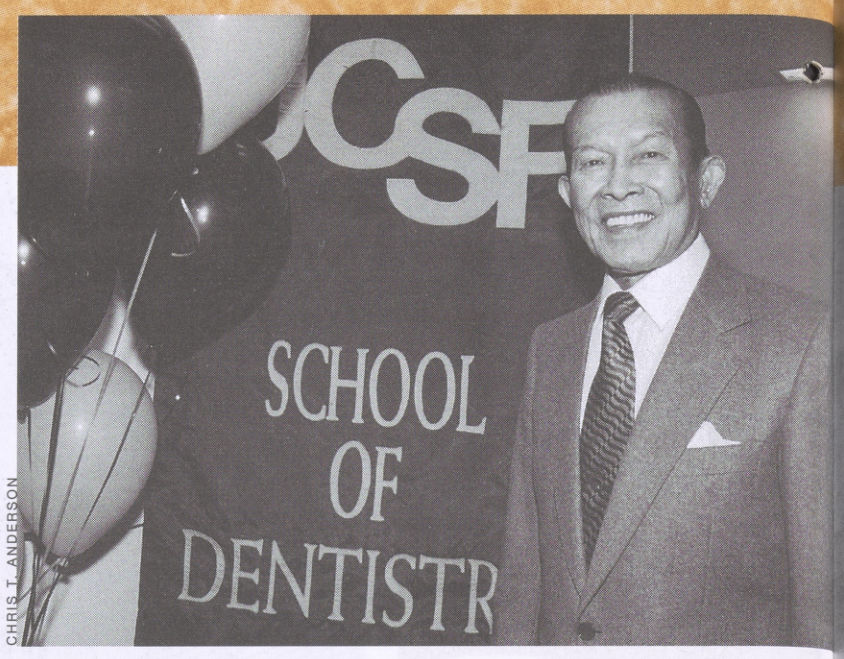
Grumbach graduated from the UCSF School of Medicine with an MD degree in 1985, receiving the Gold-Headed Cane Award as the outstanding student in this class. He continued at UCSF for residency training in family and community medicine. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and social relations from Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude.

Last year Grumbach was named director of the UCSF Center for California Health Workforce Studies, a research unit that focuses on policies related to the supply of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals. Since 1994 he also has served as research director of the UCSF Center for the Health Professions, a program that assists health care professionals, related groups, and policy makers with the challenges of educating and managing the health care workforce. He will continue to hold these positions along with his new post.

Grumbach has a special interest in community health issues and currently serves as co-chair of the research committee of the Bayview-Hunter's Point Health and Environmental Task Force and as a member of the policy committee of Health Access of California.

Grumbach has received numerous honors, including election to membership last year in the Institute of Medicine, a national organization that recognizes outstanding contributions in the fields of health and medicine. At present he serves on the Institute's advisory board on children, youth and families.

His professional affiliations include the American Academy of Family Physicians, Association for Health Service Research, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and California Physicians Alliance.



CHRIS T. ANDERSON

Dentist donates to dental school

A 1955 graduate of the UCSF School of Dentistry, San Francisco dentist Nguyen Nguyen puts his money where his heart is: his alma mater.

Nguyen, pictured above, has offered his entire pension to the school.

A UCSF faculty member for more than 40 years, Nguyen still volunteers part-time as a clinical instructor in endodontics and serves as chair of the dental school's committee charged with raising $3 million to remodel its14 clinics.

"As campaign chair, Nguyen has been an outstanding volunteer, leading by example in terms of his time, hard work and giving," Charles N. Bertolami, dean of the School of Dentistry, said during an Oct. 24 reception to mark the successful completion of the first phase of the fundraising effort.

The school, which will finance the balance of $2 million from its own funds, is about $1 million shy of the total $5 million target.

"This is an important milestone for the school because it represents the beginning of an ambitious modernization effort that, when it is complete, will make our facilities state-of-the-art and of the caliber deserved by our outstanding students and faculty," Nguyen said at that reception.

Widely recognized for his many years of outstanding service to the University and the community, Nguyen frequently volunteers in his native country Vietnam. He has received several awards and accolades, including receiving the UCSF Dental Association's Medal of Honor in 1993 and, most recently, being honored with a dental scholarship in his name.

The School of Dentistry's fundraising campaign was launched with early commitments by its department chairs and administration. Since then faculty and alumni have pledged their support. Of the current total, nearly $600,000 has come from the school's faculty. The largest donation to date was made by Gladys and Marvin Stark, a 1952 graduate of the school.

Faculty, staff and friends also celebrated on Oct. 24 the dedication of the Joseph A. and Dorothy Gale Scuitto Seminar Room on the second floor of the dental clinics building and the Stanley Erpf Faculty/Student Lounge. Joseph Scuitto and Stanley Erpf are also dental school alumni and donors.

honors & awards

Bagot-Lopez

Barbara Bagot-Lopez, community relations manager, University Advancement and Planning: Received an award from San Francisco's Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) on Nov. 12 for her dedication to the community through her volunteer work for the center, serving on the board of directors for eight years and on its executive board for four years. A founder of the BHNC in 1978, Bagot-Lopez has worked to preserve the neighborhood as a multi-ethnic, mixed income community, in the face of gentrification, crime, and urban decay. The BHNC has established many programs, including home rehabilitation loans for low-income families and seniors; senior lunch; youth activities that provide alternatives to gangs, drugs, and violence to unify and solidify community life in the neighborhood. She served two tenures as Bernal Journal editor, teaching neighborhood youth job skills while working on the writing, production, and advertising. Barbara still lives in Bernal Heights, now with her husband Eugenio Lopez and their daughter Adela Nicole.

George Gregory, professor of anesthesia and pediatrics: Honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics with the Distinguished Career Award for Critical Care at its annual meeting in San Francisco last month. This prestigious award is given to an AAP member who has made significant contributions to the field of pediatric critical care. Gregory's research in neuroprotection factors is primarily directed toward decreasing cerebral injury in neonates.

Catherine McDonald, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, division of adolescent medicine: Honored by the AAP with a special individual award for her vigorous lobbying and educational anti-tobacco efforts on behalf of children and youth. McDonald is chair of the California District AAP Task Force on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs.

Rudi Schmid, emeritus professor of medicine: Represented UCSF in Mayor Willie Brown's sister-city delegation that visited Shanghai in September. On Oct. 18, he delivered the keynote address at the Chinese World Congress on Digestion in Beijing, P.R. China.

Pharmacy students honor teachers

Mary Anne Koda-Kimble, dean of the School of Pharmacy, and students in the classes of 2000 and 2001, presented the Long Award for Excellence in Teaching to the outstanding pharmacy teachers and teaching assistants of the 1997-98 academic year.

The Class of 2000 chose Charles Hoover, assistant adjunct professor, stomatology & microbiology, as Teacher of the Year and Matt Lee, biopharmaceutical sciences, as Teaching Assistant of the Year. The class of 2001 chose Sexton Sutherland, adjunct professor, anatomy, as Teacher of the Year, and Carolyn Cummins, pharmaceutical chemistry, as teaching assistant of the year.

Hoover was recognized for "his ability to organize an immense amount of information in a way that makes it easier for students to learn and for his ability to identify what is important" for students to know as "future pharmacists."

Students noted that Lee "always came well-prepared for his discussion sessions" and "elaborated on the lecture material, presenting it in different ways so that it was easier for us to grasp."

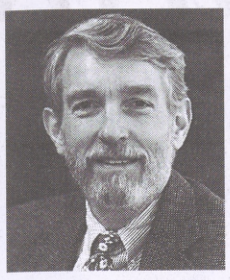
The students in the class of 2001 described Sutherland as harboring "a vast amount of information in the recesses of his cranium" and praised his ability to motivate students to become enthused about their studies.

Cummins was recognized for her "amazing ability to effortlessly bring clarity to a very complicated subject," as well as her "down-to-earth" and accessible manner. "Carolyn is always willing to listen to students, no matter how busy she is with her own work. We can only imagine the places this aspiring scientist will go," the students said.

Opinion

Laboratory studies essential to progress in medical research

BY ZACH W. HALL



Hall

Medical science has made remarkable progress in reducing human suffering during the last 50 years. I remember when swimming pools all over America were closed from fear of polio, a disease that has now all but disappeared.

Life expectancy has been lengthened by angioplasty and coronary by-pass operations. Each year thousands of babies who previously would have died, now survive because of improved medical care.

Each of these advances would not have happened without research on animals. Our current progress in developing new treatments for AIDS, breast cancer, diabetes, stroke, spinal cord injury, mental illness and drug abuse depends on responsible animal research.

Although other methods tell us much that is valuable, research on animals is still essential for answering many of the most pressing questions related to human disease.

Recently, several groups that are totally opposed to animal research have organized a campaign to protest a current University of California at San Francisco study on how the brain analyzes sounds after a partial hearing loss. The letters and telephone calls we have received from this misguided campaign reflect a concern for the welfare of animals that we share.

Many of the objections to this research, however, are based on misinformation. More seriously, many of the writers display alarming misconceptions about the indispensable value of animal research for understanding and curing human disease. Most are also unaware of the careful scrutiny that animal research receives, and of the procedures that ensure that animals are used only when necessary and are treated humanely.

Biomedical researchers at UCSF study animals because this is essential to our mission — to relieve the burden of disease and to improve human health. We also recognize that animals are living creatures who must be treated with care and protected from pain and discomfort.

Like other biomedical research institutions, UCSF has committees that carefully examine each animal research proposal, both for its scientific importance and for its humane treatment of the animals involved. The UCSF study under attack, for example, was examined and approved both by the department and by the UCSF Committee for Animal Research, composed of scientists, veterinarians and a nonuniversity representative.

In the study, physicians and other scientists are using brain research to learn how to treat effectively the more than 26 million Americans who suffer a hearing disability.

To mimic the hearing loss suffered by humans that may result from aging, viral infections, or chronic exposure to noise, a partial loss for high-pitched sounds is produced in monkeys by exposing them to a loud sound. The animals, who are anesthetized, do not hear the noise. They feel no pain and retain most of their normal hearing. There is no damage to their eardrums.

The central brain pathways are mapped before and after the hearing loss to see how they have changed in response to the disability. The information obtained will tell us how the brain is able to reorganize itself. This information will be valuable in designing new aids for the deaf.

Why are primates used? Primates are the only animals whose brains are complex enough to resemble the human brain.

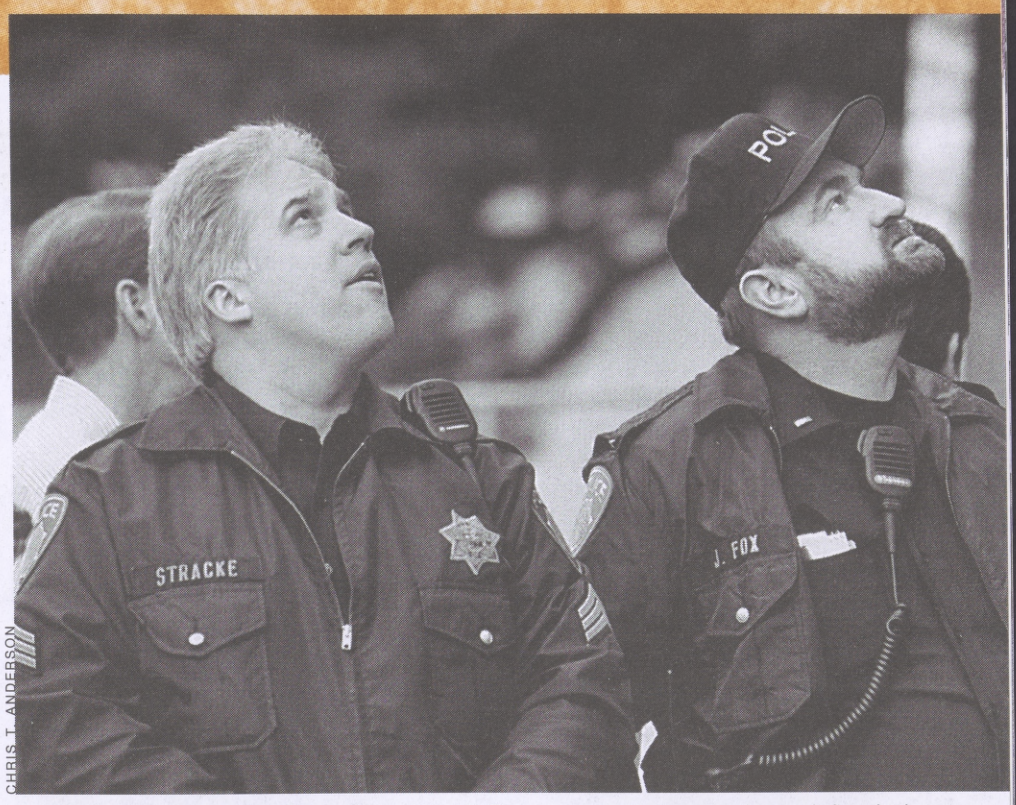
The studies cannot be carried out by computer, as some have suggested. We do not have enough experimental information about how the brain works to program a computer correctly.

This project is opposed by several animal rights groups that are against all use of animals in research. Their view that animals are equivalent to humans is extreme. Ingrid Newkirk, the head of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has been quoted as saying, "A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy." (The Washingtonian, August 1986.) Newkirk has said that even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, her organization would be against such research. (Vogue, September 1989.)

These views are at odds with those of the American people. In both national and California polls, more than 70 percent of respondents say they support research on animals.

Most of those with illnesses or disabilities are in no doubt about where they stand. Jeff Getty, who received an experimental baboon bone marrow transplant in his fight against AIDS in 1995, understands what is at stake and supports animal research. Christopher Reeve, who suffered a spinal cord injury in 1995 that left him paralyzed, is also a supporter.

We must not lose our compassion for animals nor our concern that they be treated as humanely as possible. But we must also not be deceived about the importance of animal studies for human health. To abandon the use of animals in research at the urging of a few would exact a fearsome price in human suffering from all of us. Although we may wish it were otherwise, there are presently no alternatives.



CHRIS T. ANDERSON

UCSF Police, including Sgt. Lorin Stracke, left, and Lt. John Fox, were among those assigned to watch the animal rights advocate, who perched on scaffolding outside the Medical Science Building on Parnassus for nearly a week.

> "Although other methods tell us much that is valuable, research on animals is still essential for answering many of the most pressing questions related to human disease."

(PROTEST FROM PAGE 1)

Karen McLeod, who said she chose her work as a veterinary nurse at UCSF because of her compassion for animals, added: "Federal laws set out strict guidelines for the use of animals in research. UCSF goes way beyond these guidelines as they relate to animal welfare."

Vice Chancellor for Research, Zach Hall, who also testified at the committee hearing, voiced his opinion on the research in an editorial published in the Nov. 16 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle. His remarks are reprinted in the adjacent column.

Prior to the supervisors' committee meeting, more than a dozen activists from the animal rights group In Defense of Animals, some of whom testified at the supervisors' committee, gathered outside the Parnassus campus for three days of demonstrations objecting to the study. The group has held several demonstrations at UCSF this year.

One member of In Defense of Animals, Michael Kennedy, climbed on scaffolding outside the fourth floor of the Medical Sciences Building in opposition of the experiment on Nov. 11. He camped out in a sleeping bag perched on the scaffolding for six days until he reached an agreement that allowed him to speak with Chancellor Mike Bishop and Vice Chancellor Zach Hall. Kennedy was then taken to the medical center for an examination, after which campus police cited and released him.

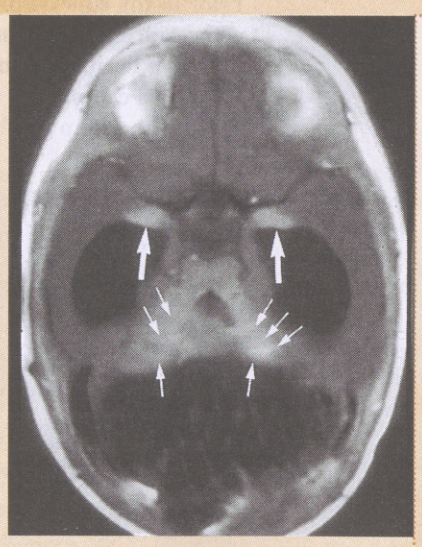
For complete coverage, see Daybreak's weekly archives at (www.ucsf.edu/daybreak).

viewing the brain *from birth*

Austin Zimmer

Imaging revolutionizes diagnosis, treatment of brain disorders

Child neurologist Bruce Berg calls them "shadow images": pictures taken with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and other techniques, to chronicle the growth and development of babies' brains from before birth and beyond.



BY JANET BASU

"These shadow images of the brain have allowed us to see things that we could not see before, to diagnose and treat central nervous system disorders that we could not treat before," says Berg, the founding chief of UCSF's child neurology division and a pioneer of modern child neurology.

Pediatric neuroradiologist Jim Barkovich has been collecting these images for more than a dozen years. He is the author of the definitive textbook in the field and leader of a burgeoning field of neuroradiologists who use non-invasive imaging to study the brain disorders that physicians see in the hospital or the neurology clinic.

Child brain experts including Berg say that Barkovich and a handful of other neuroradiologists have dramatically changed the way they diagnose brain disorders, giving them new ways to devise treatments for conditions previously untreatable.

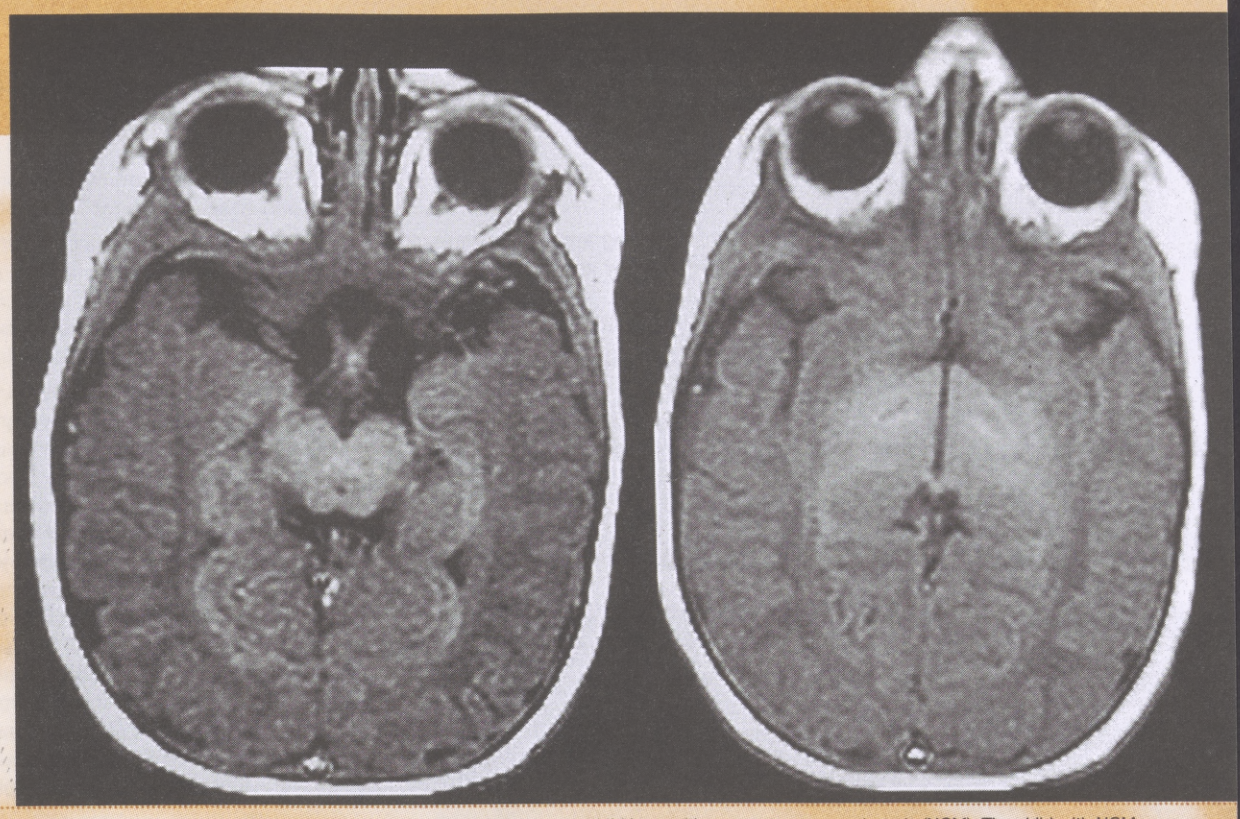
Chief of pediatric neuroradiology at Lucile Packard Children's Health Services (LPCHS) at UCSF and professor of radiology at UCSF, Barkovich is particularly interested in what happens — and what sometimes goes wrong — during the period beginning early in the second trimester of pregnancy. This is when new neurons migrate to form the major structures of the brain, and connections develop between those structures.

Barkovich also is interested in the first few years after birth, when a child grows and responds to stimuli, and the brain organizes itself. During this period, MRI can be used to view the myelin sheathing that speeds up transmission of messages along the axons, the long arms of brain cells that act as "wires" to carry messages from one part of the brain to another. When a scan shows relatively few of those neuronal connections, that is cause for concern.

Barkovich says the value of diagnostic imaging depends on collaboration, working with experts who can use the radiologist's skill at seeing inside the living body to help answer questions in their fields. As one way to foster collaboration, he leads a weekly teleconference where the pediatric neurologists and neurosurgeons of the LPCHS Pediatric Neurosciences Service Line at UCSF and Stanford meet to discuss cases.

Barkovich is working with Donna Ferriero, chief of pediatric neuroradiology, to diagnose hypoxia-ischemia, a condition that can damage a newborn's brain when the supply of oxygen or blood is cut off. This condition may someday be treatable if it can be detected early enough. With radiology scientist Dan Vigneron, Barkovich has learned to identify specific groups of axons that perform specific functions, such as the axons that act as "wiring" for sight, transmitting visual information from the eyes to the cerebral cortex.

& beyond



These brain scans are of a normal newborn. The one on page 4 is from a child born with neurocutaneous melanosis (NCM). The child with NCM has abnormal melanin deposits in the brain and hydrocephalus, as identified by arrows. Melanin deposits and hydrocephalus are two of the most common manifestations of NCM in the brain.

A rare brain disorder

With dermatologist Ilona Frieden, Barkovich also has become an adviser to a small group of parents from around the world whose babies have a rare skin disorder that sometimes also affects their brains. The congenital condition, called neurocutaneous melanosis, gets its start early in fetal development, in the cells of the neuroectoderm that eventually will make up the brain, spinal cord and the skin.

Since 1990, Barkovich and Frieden have collected about 70 MRI images of the brains and spinal cords of children with neurocutaneous melanosis — partly thanks to an Internet-based grapevine of parents who tell each other that UCSF has become a center of expertise with this very rare disease.

Barkovich and Frieden's findings have changed what physicians know about the disorder and what they advise parents about the children's treatment and care. Their story illustrates how pictures inside the brain can help physicians diagnose and find treatments for disorders that have not been well understood before.

That's why Austin Zimmer was referred to LPCHS at UCSF from his home in Santa Maria, California. Austin, now 19 months old, was born with nearly two dozen dark brown moles on his body, and a tendency to brain seizures. The birthmarks are called giant nevi, and they are formed when melanin, the substance that normally gives skin its color, forms thick layers over large parts of a child's body. Austin's seizures are an indication that he also has layers of melanin in his brain.

At seven weeks, he was transported to UCSF for treatment of hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid in his skull that threatened his brain. Mitchell Berger, chief of neurosurgery, implanted a shunt to stop the hydrocephalus, which is a common complication of neurocutaneous melanosis. But Austin continued to have mild seizures. The number of moles on his skin increased. And when Barkovich and Frieden reviewed his MRI scans every few months, they saw fast-growing lumps of melanin pigment that might be tumors on his brain and spine.

His parents, Karen and Brett Zimmer, were referred to pediatric neuro-oncologist Carolyn Russo. She proposed trying an experimental therapy, a combination of interferon and 13-cis retinoic acid, drugs that have shown some promise against melanoma and have a low risk of bad side effects. Russo stresses that there is no data showing whether these drugs will work over the long term for this disease, and the results from one child are not proof. But in July, 11 months after Austin started the treatment, Barkovich reviewed the baby's brain scans and called his parents with good news: one of the tumors near the boy's brainstem had almost completely disappeared.

While the Zimmers say they are delighted with Austin's progress, they also are realistic. Karen says, "It's hard to know with this disease. It's pretty aggressive. And the median age of death is three years." She says that they rely on their strong faith, and are waiting to see "God's plan for their son."

Dallin Williams' prognosis may be better than Austin's, but at first it did not seem so. Dallin, now just past two, also has a congenital giant nevus, so large it looks like he was born wearing a thick brown cape over his back and shoulders. He's never had a seizure, but like Austin he shows signs in MRI scans that melanin has formed in his brain. When he was born in Tallahassee, Florida, doctors there gave his parents all the information they could find in a medical text. Their son probably would die before the age of three, the doctors said, and he would never walk or talk or learn.

Now Dallin is a laughing, active two-year-old who tries everything his big brother does. He has been through a dozen surgeries to gradually replace the nevus on his back with normal skin — a treatment that helps children escape some of the social problems that come with a disfiguring disease, and also helps prevent melanoma, a dangerous form of skin cancer. His parents, Kevin and Tina Williams, say they would not have had the confidence to go forth with the surgery if they had believed the first doctors' predictions.

Those predictions were based on the limited information available in the scientific literature. Giant nevi are rare, showing up in about 1 in 20,000 newborns. The number of children who also have extra melanin on their brains is unknown: though this condition was first described in the 19th century, only 60 cases had been reported by the early 1990s. Until neuroradiologists began to recognize the presence of melanin on the MRI scans of newborns, the only time doctors could detect brain involvement was when a child had severe symptoms.

When the Williamses went to the Internet, they found other families who told them to call UCSF. Frieden and Barkovich recently had published the first data from their study, which showed that cases like Dallin's are much more common — and sometimes less lethal — than expected.

Looking at the brain scans of these babies, Barkovich detected a bright signal that represents a layer of melanin in the brain and in the meninges, the membranes that cover the brain and the spine. His studies with Frieden show that about one-quarter of children born with giant nevi have melanin in their brains, and one-third have some sort of brain abnormality. Most do not show symptoms of neurological impairment. As more cases have been detected in children and adults, it has become clear that some asymptomatic children survive to lead normal lives.

"There's a good survival rate. That's what we're banking on," says Kevin Williams.

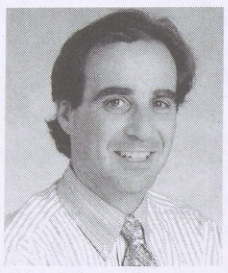
Barkovich's images have led to changes in the way that children with giant nevi are diagnosed and cared for. He and Frieden say that when children have multiple congenital nevi involving the scalp, or along the spine, it makes sense to do MRI scans to determine which children are at increased risk of brain involvement. Alternatively, they say, these children should have frequent neurological exams to pick up early signs of brain difficulties, and periodic MRI scans as soon as there is a concern that the melanin may be expanding or turning malignant.

Meanwhile, both the Williamses and the Zimmers have channeled some of the concern for their children into work that may help others with this skin/brain disease. Kevin Williams founded Nevus Outreach, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families who are raising children with giant nevi and neurocutaneous melanosis. (For more information, see their web page at www.nevus.org.) Karen Zimmer has been one of the organization's strongest supporters: thanks to her energy and the generosity of the citizens of Santa Maria, she has raised more than $100,000 for research.

Frieden and Barkovich both say that if there is real success against a disease this rare, it will come from grassroots organizations like Nevus Outreach, who can raise seed money for research and lobby actively for government support of basic scientific studies. Partly as a result of the group's efforts, several scientists in the US and Europe now are working on or planning promising research projects, looking for causes and treatments for diseases like this one that affect both the brain and the skin.

Anonymous HIV testing linked to earlier diagnosis, medical care

BY CORINNA KAARLELA



Bindman

Anonymous HIV testing programs encourage people to get tested earlier and therefore to begin medical treatment earlier, according to a new study led by UCSF researchers.

"HIV is the only infectious disease with dedicated anonymous testing programs that are funded by public health departments, and this practice has been controversial. We wanted to find out if this strategy worked to get people at risk for HIV infection to come in earlier for testing and care," says principal investigator Andrew Bindman, director of the UCSF Primary Care Research Center at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center.

"Our study findings show two important outcomes. Anonymous testing is associated with earlier diagnosis of HIV infection, which means persons who know they are HIV positive can take steps to control the spread of the virus, and to earlier follow-up treatment, which can significantly impact quality and length of life," he adds.

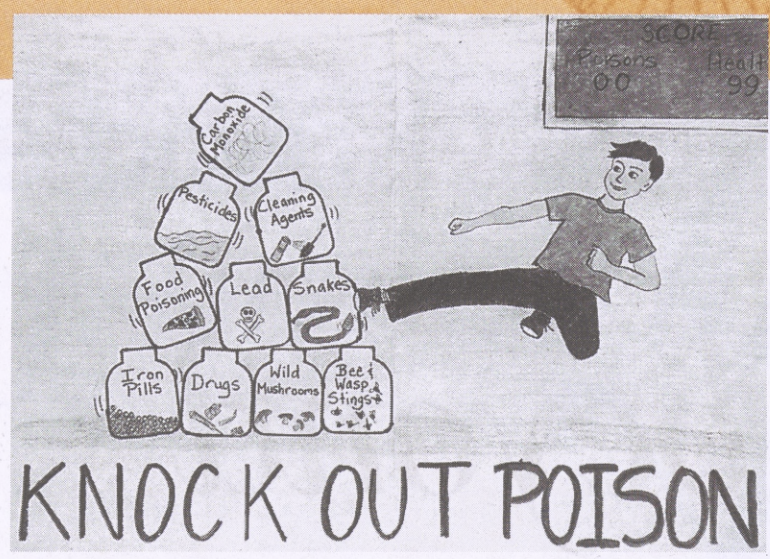
The research team compared the two types of HIV testing — confidential and anonymous — in seven states: Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, and Texas.

In confidential testing, a person's name is linked to the specimen and test results are recorded in a medical chart with the name. The chart is handled according to standard confidentiality guidelines for medical records.

In anonymous testing, a unique identifying label (usually a number) rather than a patient's name is used to link the specimen and the result to the patient. The result is not recorded in a medical chart that has a patient name. The anonymous testing procedure was developed because of the stigma of AIDS in the early days of the epidemic and concerns that there would be breaches in the confidentiality of the medical chart.

At present, 40 states have publicly funded anonymous testing programs for HIV. This type of testing program is available even in many of the states that require HIV named reporting, a public health program that is designed to facilitate surveillance of the HIV epidemic. Individuals who test anonymously for HIV in named reporting states are not reported to the public health department until after they present for HIV-related medical care, at which point their names are linked with their test results.

Bindman notes that as more states adopt HIV named reporting policies the interest in the option of anonymous HIV testing may grow. Based on their study results, the researchers conclude that public health departments should continue to offer anonymous HIV testing and in some cases even enhance availability.



San Francisco student Marissa Lee, 10, drew this poster for the 1999 poison prevention calendar now on sale. Proceeds benefit the California Poison Control System's statewide outreach programs.

Poison control calendar for sale

A 1999 calendar from the California Poison Control System (CPCS) gets the new year off to a safe start with seasonal tips for preventing potentially fatal accidents.

A statewide network dedicated to poison prevention with four sites, including San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, CPCS is administered by the UCSF School of Pharmacy and is operated by a staff of trained health care professionals who are available 24 hours a day via a toll-free telephone hotline to answer questions regarding poisoning emergencies. The hotline number for emergencies is 1-800-876-4766 (1-800-8-POISON).

Illustrated by California youngsters who participated in this year's National Poison Prevention Week poster contest, each month carries a different poison prevention message along with the hotline number. In December, the calendar advises parents to be wary of poisonous decorative plants like mistletoe and holly berry.

Calendars are for sale at $5 each (including mailing and taxes), and proceeds will be used for CPCS educational outreach programs throughout the state. Copies are available by mail. Checks should be made out to the California Poison Control System for the appropriate amount and sent to Elise Stone/Calendar, California Poison Control System, San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, 1001 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, Calif., 94110. For more information, call 502-6008.

medical call board

Facial muscle activity

The UCSF Outcomes Research Laboratory is seeking volunteers for a study to measure facial muscle activity (EMGs) under the effect of general anesthesia and muscle relaxation. The study consists of one six-hour day (four hours of anesthesia plus two hours of recovery).

Participants will be paid $125 for completing this study.

Participants must be in good health, between the ages of 20 and 40 years, a non-smoker, drug and medication free, and be of average weight for height. Please call Azita in the Outcomes Research Office at 476-8436, or email for more information azita_moayeri@quickmail.ucsf.edu.

DHEA and health

Physician researchers are conducting a 13-month study to find out if the naturally occurring hormone dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) really improves overall health and well-being.

This product is available in health food stores and has been reported to have positive overall effects by the general public. The UCSF study seeks to clarify the actual effects of DHEA on healthy adults.

Participants in the study will take DHEA for six of the 13 months and will be compensated $225 for their participation in the study. Eligible participants should speak English as a primary language and be free from stroke, heart attack, heart disease, cancer; diabetes; depression; major mental illness; and hormones (i.e., steroids, hormone-containing cremes or patches). Those who would like to be considered for the DHEA study, should call 476-7840 ext. 2.

Genetics of alcohol

The UCSF department of neurology is seeking volunteers to participate in a study examining the genetics of alcoholism. Using state-of-the-art equipment to analyze DNA, researchers are hoping to find the gene or genes that contribute to the development of alcoholism.

Participants must have a history of heavy drinking (either in recovery or still drinking) and have a family member who is willing to participate in the study, or have a family member who has a history of heavy drinking who will participate. Participation includes a personal interview, personality tests and blood draw by a certified phlebotomist.

The study takes about three hours to complete and can take place at a clinic near San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center or in a participant's home. All information is kept strictly confidential. Volunteers will be compensated $30 at the completion of the study. Those interested should call 1-888-805-UCSF(8273) or visit the web site at http://egcrc.ucsf.edu/alcoholgene.

Alcohol treatment for veterans

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center is conducting a study for male and female veterans who want treatment for problem drinking. The study includes counseling, an approved medication and financial reimbursement. Participants must not be homeless, taking psychiatric medications, or abusing other street drugs. For more information, call 221-4810, ext. 4158.

Air pollutant effects on asthmatics

Researchers at the UCSF Lung Biology Center's Human Exposure Lab are recruiting asthmatic volunteers for a controlled environment exposure to air pollutants.

Researchers are investigating the lung responses of human subjects to a four-hour exposure to ozone levels that are equivalent to ambient ozone concentrations in Los Angeles on a smoggy day. Ozone is a major component of urban air pollution and can produce airway inflammation and decreases in lung function in all individuals, but evidence suggests asthmatics are more vulnerable to its effects.

Participants must be between 18 and 50 years of age, have little or no history of smoking, and be able to exercise continuously at a moderate level for a 30-minute duration. Participants will make 11 visits over the course of four months for a total of 40 hours, and will be paid about $1,000. For more information about this study, call 206-5960.

Immunity to HIV

The California Partners Study, run by UCSF's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, is conducting research into the possibility of mucosal immunity to HIV and whether there are biological factors that make some women immune to HIV. They are currently recruiting heterosexual, HIV-negative couples who meet the following eligibility requirements: both partners must be at least 30 years old; the two partners must be sexually active together; and both partners must speak English or Spanish. All participants will be seen for a one-study visit in San Francisco or at other locations in the Bay Area and will receive free lab tests for HIV and STDs. All participants will be paid up to $50 for their time. For more information call 800/262-2430 and mention "bio study." All calls are confidential.

Human Resources reorganizes to improve service

BY KELLIE MEDRANO

UCSF Human Resources services are relocating and reorganizing for improved customer service and increased collaboration among department employees, says Randy Lopez, assistant vice chancellor for Human Resources.

"Collectively, we believe this will provide departments with improved, coordinated, effective services delivered in a timely manner," Lopez says.

Currently, the seven Human Resources services — Staffing and Compensation, Faculty and Staff Assistance (FSAP), Benefits and Financial Planning, Disability Management Services, Labor/Employee Relations, Development and Training, and Business Information & Technology Services — are split among five different locations.

As of mid-January, most of Human Resources will be united at the Laurel Heights site. Labor and Employee Relations was the first unit to move into the new third-floor offices in Suite 305 and FSAP will be the last to move into space on the second floor by February. Existing campus mailbox numbers, email addresses, and phone extensions will be operational at the new site, with new numbers added as necessary to accommodate the reorganization.

About 72 HR career employees will work at the revamped Laurel Heights building, which is expected to be fully occupied by February.

The move is part of the HR reorganization aimed at improving services for campus clients. Everett Haberman, manager of Staffing & Compensation, calls his clients "big winners" in this move because it will "create a natural synergy of people working together to provide more streamlined services." The simple proximity factor of all HR employees will increase information flow, avoid misunderstanding and promote problem solving.

During the recent department-wide training, he addressed the goal to move toward a new organizational model termed "The Client Services Center." The goal of the restructuring is two-fold: to better support HR employees and to provide useful and integrated services to clients.

The first part of the goal will begin to take shape as HR employees are united in one workspace, simplifying communication and coordination of services.

For example, instead of having seven specialized and independent divisions, HR services will now be organized around client groups. Five client service teams — staffed by specialists cross-trained to meet diverse needs — will serve five client groups, with every department receiving a specific team assignment. The concept is to build long-term relationships with clients and provide more effective and efficient services.

The ultimate goal is "one-stop shopping" for clients, says Lopez.

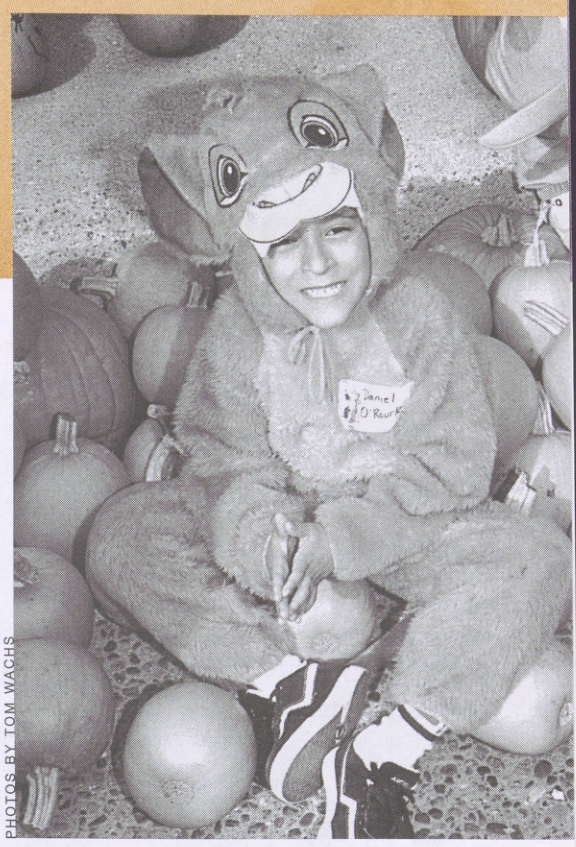
"Rather than clients having to go to several different places for their answers, we will pool our resources and do the problem solving for them."

The need to make measurable improvements in customer service surfaced when the HR department conducted focus groups with campus clients last spring. One of the major issues, clients say, is the need for better access to HR experts and services — and less time lost navigating voice mail. Clients also wanted to see improvements in market-pay planning, the Temporary Employment Program and disability management programs. The department is working on action plans in these areas, says Lopez.

As word gets out about HR's plans for restructuring, comments so far have been positive. Says Robert Duca, chief administrative officer of surgery, "if the move will allow faster response time to operational needs of the departments, it will be greatly applauded."

Adds Shirley Hodges, HR coordinator for the School of Dentistry, "I feel the move to one central location is a good one. It should save the client from having to be the key player in trying to make sure all bases are covered."

For questions regarding the HR reorganization, contact Lopez by email at rlopez@itsa.ucsf.edu.



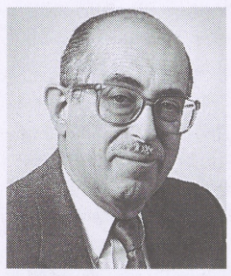
PHOTOS BY TOM WACHS

A heart-warming Halloween reunion

Children, including Daniel O'Rourke, top photo, who had life-saving medical care as newborns at UCSF were special guests on Halloween day at a reunion picnic. Families from throughout Northern California were reunited with the doctors, nurses and other staff members who cared for their children at the UCSF Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery or the UCSF Fetal Treatment Center.

Cancer experts pen two new books to cope with illness

BY ABBY SINNOTT



Rosenbaum

In UCSF oncologist Ernest Rosenbaum's new book, "Inner Fire: Your Will to Live" (Plexus Publishing, $14.95), 19 people, including those who have faced cancer or another serious illness, describe some of the critical ingredients of a person's determination to survive.

"This book provides people with the perspective of what it is like to go through an illness," says Rosenbaum. "By understanding how others have coped with illness, this guide helps those facing a life-threatening disease to better cope themselves and develop a stronger will to live."

Readers find out what inspired Laura Evans and a group of breast cancer survivors to climb the 23,000-foot Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere.

Rosenbaum, a long-time medical oncologist who has written 16 other books on cancer therapy, says that doctors have always been fascinated by the power of a patient's fight for their life.

In trying to find the answers to these questions, Rosenbaum and his wife, Isadora Rosenbaum, who is the co-author of the book and works in an oncology practice providing psychosocial support to patients and their families, began asking people about what enabled them to live fully when faced with disease.

They found that there is a commonality of factors among those who have a strong will to live. These include hope, faith, attitude, determination, the love of life, courage, luck and chance, the ability to cope, a support system, having a purpose (goals), and the appropriate medical care. In addition, those who have a remarkable will to live appear to have strong bonds of friendship and love. Rosenbaum says that the integration of these common factors is the foundation for the will to live.

But it was not only through others' experiences with illness that he came to understand the human power of the will to live. When Rosenbaum himself suffered respiratory failure and an acute heart attack in 1995, he learned about his own will and was also forced to reaffirm his values and beliefs.

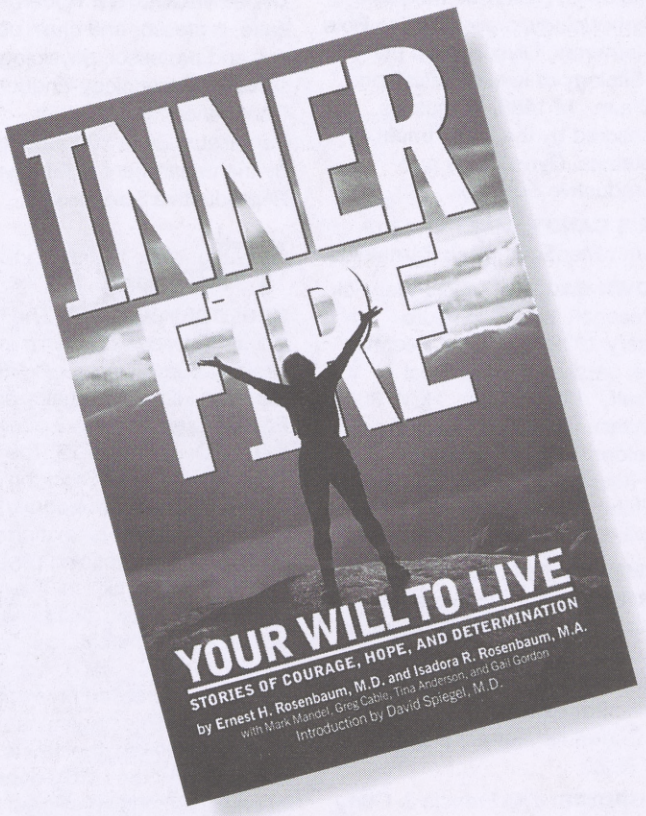
He said that, like the people whose stories are depicted in the book, his will to live comes from hope and is also rooted in stark reality. The diagnosis of a life-threatening illness can act as a "wake-up call" and provides a person with an opportunity to acknowledge his or her mortality and to examine priorities.

Rosenbaum said that anyone who goes through this process inevitably experiences positive change and, in doing so, begins to nurture their will to live.

In the Rosenbaums' second new book, "Cancer Supportive Care: A Comprehensive Guide for Patients and Their Families" (Somerville House Publishing, $24.95), they provide cancer patients and their caregivers with a comprehensive guide that helps them make their way through the myriad of confusing paths toward physical and emotional recovery and stability.

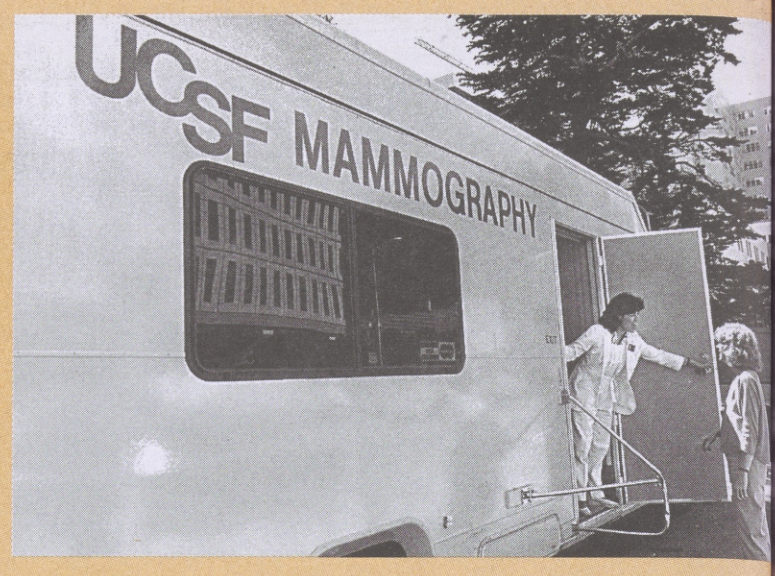
The Rosenbaums share their many years of experience working as caregivers of cancer patients and translate them into a series of recommendations patients and their families can rely on to promote full recovery or a better quality of life.

The guide includes information on a wide breadth of topics ranging from up-to-date medical information on cancer and its treatments to discussions regarding the emotional impact of the disease on a person. The authors also discuss a person's will to live, coping strategies, spirituality, exercise, sexuality, nutrition, managed care, patient-physician relationships, grief and recovery.


INNER FIRE
YOUR WILL TO LIVE
STORIES OF COURAGE, HOPE, AND DETERMINATION
by Ernest H. Rosenbaum, M.D. and Isadora R. Rosenbaum, M.A.
with Mark Mandel, Greg Cable, Tina Anderson, and Gail Gordon
Introduction by David Spiegel, M.D.

calendar

Nov. 28-Dec. 11, 1998



Women can get low-cost mammography screenings from a mobile van, which will be parked at UCSF locations on Dec. 2 and Dec. 4. See dates for details.

NOVEMBER

30 monday

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: John Stanley, professor, clinical ophthalmology, presents "Better Vision Now," 6 p.m., Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham St. Hear about new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism. Free. Call 476-5021.

QI GONG CLASS: Millberry Programs & Services is offering "Qi Gong Classes" every Monday evening, 8:05-9:35 p.m., through Dec. 21, MU Fitness Center, Parnassus. Unblock tension and promote physical toning. To enroll, call 476-0350.

DECEMBER

1 tuesday

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: The department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences presents "HIV and Reproductive Health: Bench to Bedside to Population," 8:30 a.m., HSW 301, Parnassus. Speakers include: Sarah Kilpatrick, associate professor, Maureen Shannon, associate clinical professor, Karen Beckerman, assistant professor, Nancy Padian, associate professor.

DENTISTRY DEVELOPMENTS: School of Dentistry hosts Paul Goldhaber, dean emeritus, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, who will present "Significant Developments in Dental Education This Century," noon-1 p.m., D 2009, Parnassus. Please bring your lunch.

WORLD AIDS DAY: The UCSF AIDS Research Institute (ARI) presents "On the Road to an AIDS Vaccine," 2-5 p.m., Cole Hall. Neal Nathanson, director of the National Institutes of Health Office of AIDS Research, is the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Jay Levy, professor of medicine, a co-discover of HIV. The National AIDS Memorial Grove also will sponsor a World AIDS Day observance at the Grove in Golden Gate Park, from 11 a.m.-1p.m. Special guest will be actress/activist Judith Light and Thomas J. Coates, director of the ARI.

2 wednesday

MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: The UCSF van offers convenient breast cancer screening, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., UCSF Lakeshore Plaza, 1501 Sloat Blvd. The exam costs $75 and takes about 20 minutes. Written or verbal approval from a doctor is required. Call 353-3825.

BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Laurel Heights, Chancellor's Conference Room. Fantastic raffle prize! Call 476-6989.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Sharon M. Hall, professor, vice chair, department of psychiatry and Center for Health and Community, presents "Breaking the Bonds of Bad Habits and Addictions," 12:10-1 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

3 thursday

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FAIRE: EMPACT! Presents holds the "Ninth Annual Holiday Crafts Faire," 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Millberry Gym and Conference Center, Parnassus. Buy discounted See's Candy chocolates, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the fair.

AESTHETIC SURGERY SEMINAR: The School of Medicine presents "The Second Minimally Invasive Aesthetic Surgery Course," Dec. 3-6, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Embarcadero Center. This course is designed to provide practitioners interested in aesthetic patient care with the most contemporary data on the use of minimally invasive, office-based procedures. To register, call 476-5808.

DISABILITY GROUP FILM SERIES: Jessica Yu presents "Breathing Lessons," noon-1 p.m., Toland Hall, Parnassus. This is a documentary by award-winning Yu and explores the unique world of Mark O'Brien, the poet-journalist who has lived for four decades paralyzed in an iron lung. For information or accommodations, call 502-7097.

HOSPITAL MEDICINE: Scott Flanders and Karen Hauer, assistant clinical professors, division of general internal medicine, present "Update on Hospital Medicine," noon-1 p.m., N 225, Parnassus. Grand rounds sponsored by the department of medicine.

BUILDING AWARENESS: Learn about the Feldenkrais Method, an innovative approach to developing awareness through movement, 1:10-2:10 p.m., MU Fitness Center, Parnassus. Call 476-1115.

ON GYNECOLOGY: Robert B. Jaffe, professor and chair, obstetrics and professor, physiology, presents a "Gynecology-Endocrinology Conference," 5 p.m., 350 Parnassus, Suite 300. Sponsored by the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences.

4 friday

TRAUMA CARE CONFERENCE: The UCSF Tenth Annual California Trauma Conference brings back the founders of the first conference to lead this two-day intensive review, analysis and update in trauma care, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason St., San Francisco. The forum is designed for practicing surgeons, emergency physicians, anesthesiologists, other specialists and registered nurses that provide care to trauma victims. Sponsored by the UCSF School of Medicine. Fees vary. To register by phone, call 476-5808. On site registration will be held from 7:15 to 8 a.m.

MANAGING THE CRITICALLY ILL CHILD: This three-day course focuses on "Stabilization and Management of the Critically Ill Child," Grand Ballroom, Union Square Grand Hyatt, 345 Stockton St., San Francisco. Course will cover a number of problems, such as coma, asthma, seizures, arrhythmias, which may require the transfer of a child into a pediatric intensive care unit. Presented in part by the division of pediatric critical care medicine, department of pediatrics, UCSF School of Medicine, Children's Hospital in Oakland and the Stanford University School of Medicine. For registration information, please call 476-5808.

MAMMOGRAPHY VAN: Location is UCSF, Parnassus, in front of the library. See Dec. 2 listing.

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP: Susan Ireland, instructor, Alumnae Resources and owner, Susan Ireland's Resume Service, presents "Resume Writing: It's About Your Future," 10 a.m.-noon, N 729, Parnassus. Ireland will teach you how to choose the best resume format for your situation and how to create engaging statements that promote your job objective. Free. Call 476-3394.

5 saturday

MEMORY LOSS: The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging offers a half-day workshop entitled "Memory Loss and Aging: Normal Loss or Alzheimer's Disease?," 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St. This workshop is back by popular demand and will focus on the effects of aging on memory, tips on keeping mentally fit, and the latest advances in the management of Alzheimer's Disease. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required as seating is limited. For more information, call 750-5342.

TRAUMA CARE CONFERENCE: See Dec. 4 listing. Second day of two-day forum focuses on head injuries and a point/counterpoint discussion of subspecialty trauma, 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. An optional luncheon and session of the Region IX Resident Paper Competition will follow.

LOW VISION FORUM HOLIDAY PARTY: Santa Claus, Lou Marracci and his Pioneer Helpers will distribute holiday stockings full of surprises, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., ACC main lobby, 400 Parnassus Ave. Don Ellis, publisher of Creative Arts Book Company, will read from Frances Neer's new book "Perceiving the Elephant, Essays on Eyesight" and will tell holiday stories. Free. Call 626-5313.

7 monday

DEAN'S RESEARCH SEMINAR: Jay A. Levy, professor, department of medicine research associate, Cancer Research Institute and Michelle Roland, adjunct instructor of medicine, present "The Host Immune Response Can prevent HIV Infection and Disease Progression," 3:30 p.m., N 225, Parnassus; video relay: Mount Zion, Herbst Hall and VAMC, Bldg. 203, Rm. 1A32. Sponsored by the School of Medicine.

8 tuesday

LACTATION EDUCATOR TRAINING PROGRAM: UCLA Extension's highly acclaimed "Lactation Educator Training Program," will be held Dec. 8-12, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Radisson Hotel, 200 Marina Blvd., Berkeley marina. This program is designed to prepare health professionals and other interested persons to be lactation educators. For more information, free brochure or to enroll, contact Health Sciences, UCLA Extension at 310/825-9187.

OB/GYN GRAND ROUNDS: Leslee Subak, assistant professor, department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, presents "Economic Impact of Urinary Incontinence," 9 a.m., HSW 301, Parnassus.

SAFETY FAIR: The Office of Environmental Health & Safety presents a campus safety fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., MU Conference Center, Parnassus. Call 502-5954.

9 wednesday

ENDOCRINE GRAND ROUNDS: Ira Goldfine, professor, medicine and physiology, presents "The Role of Membrane Glycoprotein PC-1 in the Etiology of Insulin Resistance," 8:30 a.m., M 1486, Parnassus. Sponsored by the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

SEE'S CANDY SALE: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., MedSci Lobby, Parnassus.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Warwick J. Peacock, pediatric neurosurgery, UCSF Stanford Health Care, presents "Brain, Heal Thyself," 12:10-1 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Learn how the brain develops before and after birth, and how it heals itself. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION SERIES: Loma K. Flowers presents "Dreams, Tears & Laughter: 30 years in 50 Minutes," noon-1 p.m., book signing, 1-1:30 p.m., S 214, Parnassus. Sponsored by the Center for Gender Equity. Call 476-5222.

TB UPDATE: The Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center is offering training, 12:30-5:30 p.m., Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St. Experts will present an update on the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of TB. For more information, call 502-4600.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: Empact! Presents will hold their annual "Music in the Library Holiday Concert," 6 p.m., UCSF library, Lange Reading Room. Join the Vocal Chords and other guest artists for this annual tradition. Refreshments will be served.

10 thursday

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS: John P. Cello, professor of medicine, SFGHMC, UCSF, presents "Control of Variceal Hemorrhage," noon-1 p.m., N 225, Parnassus. Sponsored by the department of medicine.

ON DRUG ABUSE: Joseph Guydish, assistant adjunct professor of medicine, presents "Drug Abuse Treatment: Access, Outcomes, and Systems," 3 p.m., Institute for Health Policy Studies Seminar Rm., 1388 Sutter St.

ON GYNECOLOGY: Robert B. Jaffe, professor and chair, obstetrics and professor, physiology, presents a "Gynecology-Endocrinology Conference," 5 p.m., 350 Parnassus, Suite 300. Sponsored by the department of Ob/Gyn and Reproductive Sciences.

11 friday

UROLOGIC SEMINAR: The UCSF Annual Advanced Seminar in Urology Surgery presents "Practical Issues in Human Sexuality and Erectile Dysfunction," 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 11 and 12, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 600 Stockton St. Issues in sexual development, identity, fertility, and dysfunction continue to present practicing physicians with fascinating clinical challenges. Heightened public awareness of an approved pharmaceutical therapy for enhanced sexual performance has led to increased presentation of sexual problems to general practitioners as well as specialists. Presented by the UCSF department of urology and is sponsored by the UCSF Office of Continuing Medical Education. To enroll, call 476-5808.